



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us



December 13, 2013

Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator
EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
Mail Code: ORA-1
San Francisco, CA 94105
Blumenfeld.Jared@epa.gov

Re: RDA Stormwater Petitions – Petitioners' Response to Municipal Organizations' Request for Opportunity for Stakeholder Input

Dear Regional Administrator Blumenfeld:

American Rivers, the Conservation Law Foundation, and the Natural Resources Defense Council thank the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for considering our July 2013 petitions for the exercise of residual designation authority over certain commercial, industrial, and institutional sites located within impaired watersheds. We look forward to working with EPA throughout the agency's process of reviewing our petitions.

We received a copy of the November 21, 2013 letter to EPA from the American Public Works Association, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies, requesting that the agency provide an avenue for stakeholder input as part of the petition review process. We support their request for a stakeholder public comment process to promote transparency and provide an opportunity for dialogue about the ways that this action can support efforts to meet Clean Water Act obligations. We agree with the municipal associations that an extended process soliciting comment via the Federal Register is unwarranted and would create unnecessary delays. A 30-day comment period solicited via the EPA website would be a reasonable approach.

As we have discussed with you and your staff, the designation requested in our petitions will help municipalities achieve clean water mandates at less cost, and that the degree to which it helps them will depend largely on the specific mechanism by which the designation is implemented. Therefore, we hope that EPA will ask stakeholders to focus their comments on the question of how implementation can be structured so as to assist municipalities with meeting their existing Clean Water Act obligations.

Our organizations appreciate the opportunity to provide these suggestions, and we remain willing to discuss any outstanding issues or questions about the petitions at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Odefey
American Rivers
P.O. Box 114
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(914) 584-8972
jodefey@americanrivers.org



Christopher Kilian
Conservation Law Foundation
15 East State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 223-5992
ckilian@clf.org

Ivy Frignoca
Conservation Law Foundation
47 Portland Street, Suite 4
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 210-6439
ifrignoca@clf.org



Jon Devine
Rebecca Hammer
Natural Resources Defense Council
1152 15th Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 289-6868
jdevine@nrdc.org
rhammer@nrdc.org

Larry Levine
Natural Resources Defense Council
40 West 20th Street
New York, NY 10011
(212) 727-2700
llevine@nrdc.org

Noah Garrison
Natural Resources Defense Council
1314 Second Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 434-2300
ngarrison@nrdc.org

CC: Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Water
Deborah Nagle, Director, Water Permits Division, U.S. EPA Office of Water